

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB

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JULY 1997

Medstar '97

Patriot Medstar '97 brings more than 2,000 medical unit reservists through the rigors of realistic war-time training.

by MSgt. Gordon Newell

Patriot Medstar 1997 is history and hopefully the more than 2,000 active-duty and reserve airmen, soldiers and sailors who took part, now have a better understanding of what will be asked of them in time of war.

The massive exercise--center at Westover but staged at several other sites throughout the Northeast--was aimed at training and testing units' ability during a contingency to deploy to a location, sustain operations and deploy back to their home stations.

"This was the best training that I've ever seen of this kind," said Col. James Kottkamp, overall exercise director. "I feel we accomplished our objectives which were to train joint medical personnel in the care and movement of patients during joint military operations and to provide realistic wartime skills training."

Heading a long list of visiting dignitaries to the exercise was Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Deborah Lee who was accompanied by Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh, commander of the Air Force Reserve Command.

"I was very impressed by what I saw at Westover, said Ms. Lee. "This kind of real world, hands on training, is very important to the military mission."

Ms. Lee and General McIntosh toured

(continued on pages 6 and 7)



EMERGENCY ENTRANCE -- Medevac reservists rush a patient onto a waiting C-141 for transport to a forward medical facility as part of Patriot Medstar '97 held at Westover June 7-28. The exercise tested the medical evacuation skills of 2,000 reservists from across the country.

MSgt. Matt Proletti

EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY APPLICATION

Reservist's name : _____

Reservist's rank and unit: _____

Reservists' home address: _____

Reservist's daytime phone number: _____

Employer's name and title: _____

Employer's company name: _____

Choice of UTA:

Sept. 20 (B UTA) _____ Oct. 4 (A UTA) _____

I understand that I may nominate one person at a time and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature: _____

Return this form to:

439th Airlift Wing/Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103

Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825

fax: (413) 557-2011, for information, call: (413) 557-3500

Personal Data Privacy Act 1974 (U.S.C.552a)

Wing salutes employers of reservists

by MSgt. Gordon Newell

The 439th Airlift Wing will conduct Employer Appreciation Days in September and October.

Reservists are offered the opportunity to invite their civilian bosses to visit Westover and take an orientation flight in a unit C-5A Galaxy.

Reservists who normally drill on B UTAs are asked to bring their bosses on Sept. 20 while those who drill on A UTAs should make their invitations for Oct. 4.

Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, commander of the 439th, urges reservists to take part in the program.

"It is imperative that employers of reservists know what we do here at Westover," he said. "Without their support and understanding, we simply cannot perform our mission. This is the one time of the year that we get the chance to say thanks for their sacrifice and understanding."

Employers should be at the Westover Club no later than 8:30 a.m. on the day of their visit. General Bankers will kick off activities with a short welcome which will be followed by a question-and-answer period.

The highlight of the day for bosses will be an orientation flight aboard a unit C-5 that will last for approximately an hour and a half. Reservists are also encouraged to invite their employer to visit their workplace on base.

Each reservist may invite just one boss or supervisor. Only reservists assigned to aircrew will participate in the flight.

To secure reservations, members must fill out the application form that appears on this page and return it to the Public Affairs office. Further information is available at Public Affairs, Ext. 3500.

PATRIOT

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Giving Back to America

Air Force nurse expands medical mission

Article and photos
by MSgt. Sandi Michon

As an Air Force nurse, Jane Sbardella is trained to deal with life-and-death issues.

Ironically, it was her own life-and-death circumstance that prompted her to reach out to others in the military and civilian community in a very special way.

Lt. Col. Jane Sbardella, 439th ASTS chief nurse, has made a career out of caring for others. She served as active-duty staff nurse from 1972-78, when she and her husband Ed (retired Air Force lieutenant colonel) settled in Brattleboro, Vt. to raise their two children, Matthew and Rebecca. After serving in the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard in Mississippi, Sbardella joined the 439th ASTS in 1990, when it was still located at Griffiss AFB, N.Y. That move signalled major changes for the colonel.

Sbardella was soon swept up in the whirlwind of Desert Storm when her unit deployed to Saudi Arabia in January 1991. (See photo below.) While serving in Saudi, Sbardella went out of her way to care for the troops in her unit. "We were under a lot of stress, but she was a steady, solid, calming influence on everyone," said Lt. Col. Dennis Manning, 439th ASTS executive officer. "Everyone was important to her, and she made sure everyone was okay," said Manning as he referred to her seeing off 12-hour shift workers, and welcoming the new shift

before going off duty herself.

After three months in Saudi, Sbardella returned to her job as elementary school nurse in Brattleboro as a celebrity of sorts. She gave a presentation in each of the six schools she serves showing videos of her work area in Saudi and sharing MRE samples. "To have the school nurse show up in desert cammies and combat boots — the kids think I'm cool," Sbardella said with a smile.

That Sbardella has a soft spot for children is evident as she describes her school nurse job. "Sometimes it can be a kind word, or a caring attitude... my job is important if I can make a difference in even one life," she said.

Her empathy for children is also played out in Sbardella's role as Sunday school teacher at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, where she also serves on the altar guild and the worship committee.

When a child in her community was diagnosed HIV-positive, Sbardella initiated neighborhood education meetings through their local AIDS Project and the Pediatric AIDS Foundation. The meetings were to inform and allay fears among neighborhood families. She is also a "buddy" to a local woman whose daughter is HIV-positive.

Supporting those in need is a life practice for Sbardella, but it was her own crisis that prompted her latest venture. In 1993, Sbardella was diagnosed with breast cancer. "Someone reached out to me and it made a difference," explained Sbardella.



Lt. Col. Jane Sbardella

She joined an established support group, which branched into a separate group, then she and another woman started another support group.

"Being a breast cancer survivor — and a nurse — I feel that I can help women to ask the right questions concerning their treatment. There are choices," she said. Sbardella said helping others brings meaning and purpose to what she's been through. "It helps me deal with my own situation by helping others," she said.

Sbardella is very open about her experience with breast cancer and she says people, from Westover and the civilian community, come to her with questions and for support.

How does military experience affect her ministry to others?

"The diversity of experience brings a confidence that you can make a difference in all types of arenas," she said. She feels that her military and civilian experience has been a reciprocal arrangement. "My civilian experience helps me perform my reserve job, and my reserve skills, particularly leadership, enhance my civilian duties.

Whatever the mix, Sbardella has a "bloom where you are planted" philosophy. "People say it is more blessed to give than to receive — you don't realize how true that is until you do it," she said.



WAITING FOR WAR — Just prior to the ASTS deployment to Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm, the Sbardella family visits in the base gym. From left, daughter Rebecca, retired Lt. Col. Ed Sbardella and son Matthew.



FALL LINE

The Senior NCO Leadership Course offers lessons in trust and teamwork. The course, held in May, includes a section which requires students to fall backwards into the intertwined arms of fellow students. The photos above and at right show the exercise in progress.

Photos by Capt. Mike Franco



337th AS seeks engineer candidates

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

According to CMSgt. Ken Gilbert, chief flight engineer for the 337th Airlift Squadron, several vacancies exist and he is in the process of soliciting applicants.

"Anyone who is interested in being a C-5 flight engineer and who can meet the qualifications can apply. It's a very responsible and rewarding position with plenty of opportunity for travel," he said.

To arrange an interview, interested reservists may contact Gilbert at Ext. 2139.

Prospective candidates must meet the following qualifications:

- Prior qualification at the five or

seven skill level in the 1AO, 1A2, 2MO, 2A3X3, 2A6 or 2A5XI career field or possession of an FAA flight engineer certificate with a jet or turboprop rating; or a valid FAA aircraft and power plant license;

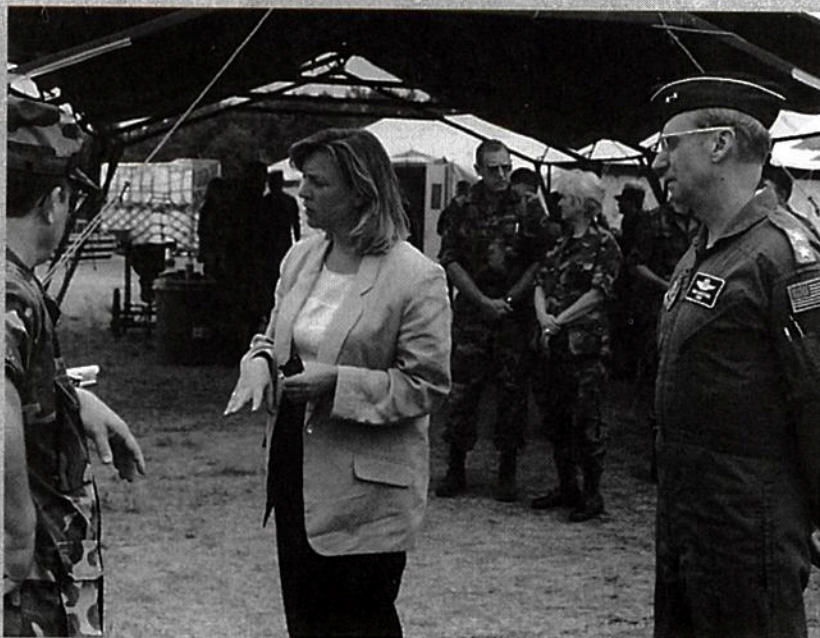
- Physical qualification for air-crew duty Class III medical standards;
- Qualification for aviation service according to AFI 11-402;
- Eligible for Secret Clearance;
- Be in grade E-4 or E-5.

A recruiting file will be established for eligible candidates.



VIP VISITORS

photos by MSgt. Gordon Newell
and TSgt. W.C. Pope



WESTOVER WELCOME -- Every visitor to Westover is considered a VIP. Deborah Lee, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs visited Westover in June to view Patriot Medstar. At left, she is greeted by Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, 439th AW commander. In photo above, Lee is accompanied by Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh, Air Force Reserve Command commander, to Dogpatch for an overview of the medical exercise. At bottom left, Secretary of State Madeline Albright stops at Westover en route to a speaking engagement at Mount Holyoke College in May. Even the very young, in bottom photo, get the red-carpet treatment as they tour the C-5 Galaxy. Westover hosts an average of 50,000 visitors per year, not including airshow attendance.





Medstar provid

*(Photos by
MSgt. Matt Proietti)*



MEDSTAR MONTAGE -- Patriot Medstar, a comprehensive medevac exercise was a multi-faceted event. At top left, a medical crew loads a patient onto a first-aid bus in Dogpatch.

At left, Medstar members prepare a patient for transport. Amherst College was the backdrop for classes as more than 120 instructors taught approximately 500 reservists.

As Medstar participants lived in a simulated wartime environment in Dogpatch, security specialist, at bottom left, provides perimeter security.





HANGAR HOSPITAL -- The Base Hangar provided ample space for a holding area for patients awaiting airlift to a forward medical facility.

s realistic, interservice training

(continued from page 1)

the Medstar site at Westover's Dogpatch area on the final day of the exercise. They were taken through an air transportable hospital which had been provided by the 509th Medical Group, an active duty unit station at Whiteman AFB, Mo.

McIntosh, who spent much of his visit talking with enlisted troops said he too was much impressed by what he saw.

"It's important that reservists, guardsmen and active-duty forces learn to work together under these kinds of conditions. With the continued increase in operations tempo for us, we are being called on more and more to help our active-duty counterparts. It's great that we can get together during an exercise like this and get to know each others strengths and capabilities," he said.

Lt. Col. Paul Torpey, Westover's Patriot Medstar liaison said that this year's exercise was the most successful yet run.

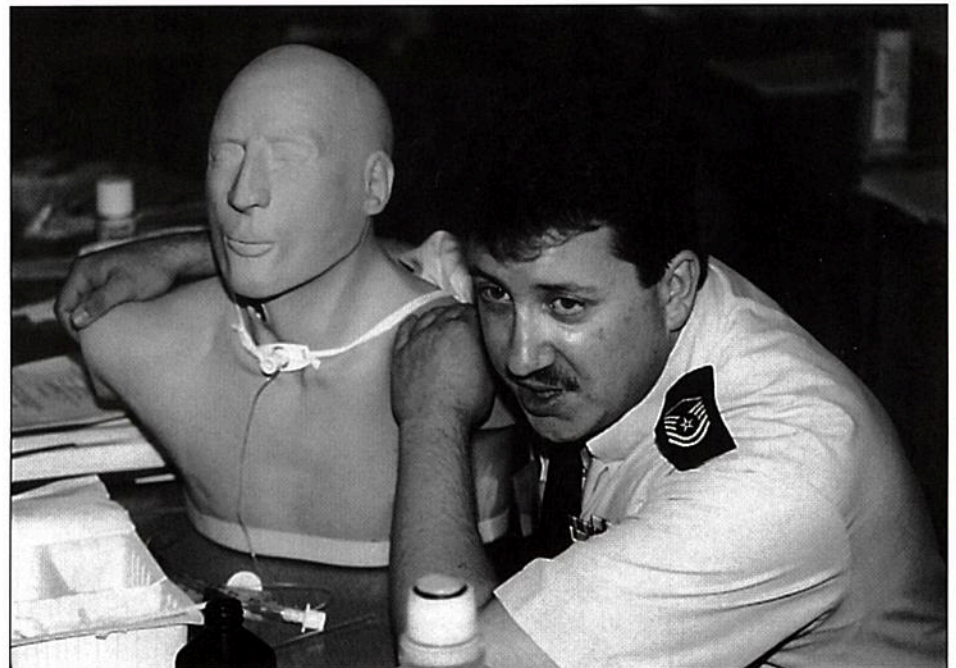
"Local support was nothing short of fantastic," he said. I realize that we leaned pretty hard on some of our people at times but in true Westover fashion, everyone came through when we needed them most. Sure, we ran into a few glitches and that can be expected in an operation of this magnitude. But overall, we have to be pleased with the results."

Peak activity occurred on the weekend of June 21-22 with the testing of new aeromedical evacuation concepts and a National Disaster Medical System. Included in this part of the exercise was the activation of a five-state emergency hospital system.

The exercise scenario called for an aircraft accident during an air show. More than 500 people were seriously injured, thrusting Disaster Medical Assistance Teams from Boston, Worcester, Rhode Island and New Jersey into action. Teams erected field hospitals and when hospital beds in Massachusetts were filled, patients were flown to hospitals in Schenectady, N.Y.

Maj. Rosemary Costa of the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron helped coordinate the simulated disaster for Westover and said feedback she received was all positive.

"Everyone I talked with felt the exercise was well worth the effort," she said. "What they saw was what they would see in a real disaster. It gave them a real sense of what they can expect."



TAKING A BREATH -- Medical mannequins were helpful to demonstrate various techniques, such as the trachea tube procedure shown above.



DISASTER IN THE MAKING — TSgt. Chuck Conigliaro, 439th AES med tech, creates a bloody hand wound on Navy SWCN Ronald Picard, above. At top right, Army SFC Leonard Mendelsohn of Natick Labs coordinates radio instructions. Behind him is PFC Barry Dubois. In photo below, Navy HM3 Nancy Saba, right, performs triage on field patients at the casualty collection point.



TEAM YANKEE

Military services meld medical training

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The blood and broken bones were simulated, but the intensity was real when Navy HM3 Nancy Saba practiced her medical skills and directed teams of other medical personnel during the Team Yankee Mass Casualty Exercise in Dogpatch on the May "B" UTA. Moving quickly from stretcher to stretcher the Navy corpsman gathered information from "moaning" wounded and made decisions on priority of care for the triage process.

All around Saba at the casualty collection point, other Navy and Air Force medical members scurried to check symptoms, affix splints and IVs, gather vital statistics, tag wounded and move stretchers. In the background an Army PRC 77 radio crackled in communication with two New Hampshire National Guard Huey air ambulances.

In a real world situation their decisions when appraising wounds and determining initial medical care would be a matter of life and death. The knowledge of what their training could mean lent intensity to the efforts of the several hundred Air Force, Navy, Army and Marine Corps members involved in the Team





(photos by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

Yankee exercise.

Many of the instructors, such as Maj. Denise Wishoski, contributed their own experience in real world crises.

"We emphasize to participants that an exercise such as Team Yankee is always a success because we practice the skills we need to have before we go to war," said the 439th AES flight nurse who deployed with her unit to Germany during Desert Shield/Storm.

The Team Yankee exercise brought together medical detachments from all the services, together with Navy Seabees and Marine combat troops to test their skills in three mass casualty evacuations by Huey, C-130 and Humvee field ambulance. The training also served as a graduation exercise for 32 joint service members who completed an eight-month EMT course conducted by Team Yankee medical trainers.

The scenario was based on the premise that dissidents of the fictitious Brcko/Posavina Corridor attack U.S. Implementation Force peacekeepers. During three exercises, medical detachments set up a casualty collection point, performed triage on patients and prepared them for evacuation. The next stage of care was provided by the 439th AES at their Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility (MASF) for those who would be evacuated by a Willow Grove NAS C-130.

Meanwhile, Army Reservists also operated a battalion-aid station which

evacuated patients to the 439th ASTS Aeromedical Staging Facility in Hangar 3.

The exercise started on Thursday before the UTA when Navy Seabees set up tents. During the exercise the Seabees also provided hot meals in the field and joined with the Marines in providing security.

Midway through the exercise, those who completed Team Yankee EMT training were flown as simulated patients to Langley AFB, Va., where graduation ceremonies were held. The ceremonies capped an eight-month course conducted by about 15 Westover and other medical personnel, many of them Desert Storm veterans. The Team Yankee training program and exercise was headed by Marine Corps Col. Douglas Kulig.

CMSgt. Mark Gilyard, 439th ASTS medical services superintendent, rated the Team Yankee exercise one of the premier medical training opportunities in New England.

"Over time the Team Yankee mass casualty exercise has become a highly anticipated annual event. It creates a realistic training opportunity for medical units throughout central New England while bringing together multi-service personnel and assets in a scenario that is sensitive to the training needs of all who participate," the chief said. "We are a prototype for the rest of the country."

LESSONS ON PATIENTS

—Team Yankee members, above, rush a patient to a New Hampshire Army National Guard Huey air ambulance. Below, patients are secured on litters awaiting evacuation.



Patriot People

Name: Beverly A. Cote
Rank: MSgt.
Age: "Thirty-something"
Address: Chicopee, Mass.
Unit: 439th MSS
Position: Chief, Career Enhancement
Civilian position: Air Reserve Technician
Favorite food: Lobster
Years of service: 16
Favorite sport: Bowling and softball
Favorite hobby: Photography and video taping
Ideal vacation: Hawaii
Best way to relax: Watching John Wayne movies with husband
Preferred entertainment: Music
Favorite hero: My husband
Favorite music: Beach Boys (easy listening)
Favorite aircraft: C-5
Pet peeve: People who ask same question repeatedly
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Buy a house, new car, vacation in Hawaii, pay for children's college, give parents and in-laws some, and put rest away for rainy day.



MSgt. Sandi Michon

MSgt. Beverly Cote

Patriot Praises

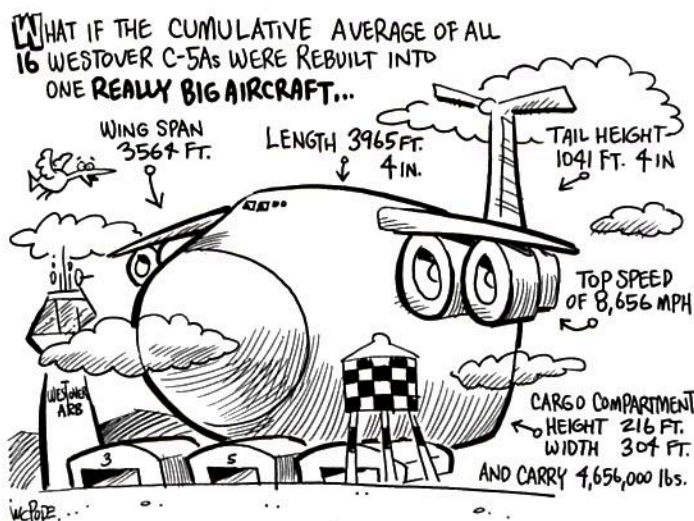
Enlistments

SSgt. Belbin, Timothy J.
 SSgt. Lojkuc, Henry C.
 SSgt. Thompson, Charles A.
 SrA. Brown, Steven D.
 SrA. Whetstone, Keith B.
 A1C Beauchesne, Eric P.
 A1C Booth, Jason S.
 A1C Poplawski, Steven E.
 A1C Runcie, Omar N.
 A1C Vanloon, Ellen M.
 Amn. Creighton, Leslie A.
 AB Duguay, Michelle S.
 AB Harvey, Jason M.

SSgt. Fish, Eugene E.
 SSgt. Gorecki, Susan M.
 SSgt. Masaitis, John A.
 SSgt. Mink, Ronald
 SSgt. Munson, Daniel R.
 SSgt. Pandolfi, Christopher
 SSgt. Powell, Kimberly A.
 SSgt. Trombley, Anthony J., Jr.
 SrA. Adade, Anthony K.
 SrA. Forrester, Dana S.
 SrA. Fortier, Nicole A.
 SrA. Hilario, Pedro H., Jr.
 SrA. Kelley, James T.
 SrA. Robertson, Julia A.
 SrA. Serrichio, Robert M.
 SrA. Williams, Julia A.
 SrA. Wilson, John J.

Reenlistments

SMSgt. McShane, Thomas R.
 MSgt. Hayes, Richard K.
 MSgt. Riley, Sharon I.
 TSgt. Burns, Holly J.
 TSgt. Chevalier, Ronald G., Jr.
 TSgt. Girard, Nicole J.
 TSgt. Gitzen, Charles H.
 TSgt. Hautanen, Kent W.
 TSgt. Kelliher, David B.
 TSgt. Labreche, Byron B.
 TSgt. Letasz, David J.
 TSgt. Malek, Deborah A.
 TSgt. McKemmie, David H.
 TSgt. Parmenter, Terrence P.
 TSgt. Preble, Robert S.
 TSgt. Valego, David J.
 SSgt. Bonanno, Anthony P.
 SSgt. Butler, John W., Jr.
 SSgt. Chaffee, Todd A.



Wing quarterly award winners announced

Six members of the 439th Airlift Wing have been singled out for honors by the Local Awards Committee for their exemplary service.

SrA James G. McLaughlin of the 439th Maintenance Squadron has been selected as Airman of the Third Quarter for Fiscal Year 1997. SSgt. Jennifer F. Asselin of the 439th Medical Squadron is NCO of the Quarter while MSgt. Charles M. Szmurlo of the 439th Aeromedical Stating Squadron is Senior NCO of the Quarter.

SrA Bryan K. Perry of the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron has been chosen Airman of the Second Quarter; SSgt. Kevin R. Nee of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron is NCO of the Quarter and MSgt. Patrick T. Whelan of the 739th Security Police Squadron is Senior NCO of the Quarter.

The committee will next meet on Aug. 9 to select Fourth Quarter winners. Commanders are reminded that nominations, using AF Form 1206, should be received by the Center for Excellence by Aug. 8.

Westover: the resource of choice

Westover Air Reserve Base could easily be called Westover Air Resource Base.

As the Air Force celebrates its 50th anniversary with the theme, "Giving Back to America," it is a golden opportunity to showcase Westover's worth to the local community and to the nation.

Westover is a far cry from a sleepy little base that many erroneously believe was closed in 1973. The base is a vibrant facility which annually contributes \$155 million to the local economy through salaries and service contracts, and provides an ideal location for a myriad of events.

In fact, as many gear back during the hot summer months, Westover is a beehive of activity. From May through August, more than 4,000 visitors will use the base for training. Westover is hosting two ROTC encampments to train future officers, and is serving as a hub to train medical and aerial port personnel across the country. Army, Navy and Marine counterparts train together at Westover in exercises designed to streamline functions and weave a seamless force.

In addition to military training, Westover serves the community at large. Our joint-use runway, longest in the Northeast, welcomes approximately 1,000 transient aircraft yearly and our mutual aid agreements with local communities augment their staffing in emergencies. The base provides nearly 100 tours to 3,000 visitors annually. Base personnel are often speakers at local functions, last year speaking to a combined audience of 5,600. Our reservists are frequently in local schools touting education and participating in read-aloud programs. They have helped build playgrounds and fixed hundreds of bikes for Brightside, a local children's facility.

Westover is a preferred location for a variety of community events such as trade shows, scouting jamborees, Native American powwows, USO dances, classes and seminars. Every two years the base hosts an open house and air show that draws an average of 700,000 people to the base. In addition, many VIPs use base facilities. During the past year alone, President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary, former president George Bush, Secretary of State Madeline Albright and Assistant Secretary of Defense Deborah Lee have set down on Westover's runways.

While the base hosts scores of visitors each year, our reservists are on the move. Our 16 C-5s are strategic players in global events -- ferrying cargo for military missions and humanitarian projects. This summer our civil engineers are heading to Germany to help with construction projects and our medical personnel are heading to Guyana, South America, to provide medical care to remote villages.

In an era where we are asked to do more with less, Westover has met the challenge and continues to expand its horizons. The oath we took to "serve" our country is more than rhetoric.

MSgt. Sandi Michon
PATRIOT editor



EDITORIAL

Briefs

Retirement party set for Col. Senft

Col. Franklyn Senft, commander of the 439th Support Group, will retire after 32 years of military service, in August.

He will be honored at a celebration dinner to be held at the Chateau Provost on Aug. 9 starting at 6 p.m.

Anyone interested in attending can call CMSgt. Kelly Braudis at (413) 557-2993. Reservations will be accepted until Aug. 1.

Wing Picnic set for September

The 439th Airlift Wing's Annual Family Day picnic is scheduled for September 6. Reservists are encouraged to invite their families. The picnic is from noon to 4:30 p.m. in the softball field area.

A volleyball tournament is planned and a disc jockey will provide musical entertainment. Clowns, tractor rides and a balloon tent will be available for youngsters. Food and beverages will be served.

PA seeking officer

The 439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office is conducting a search to fill a major's slot. Any officer interested in applying for the position is asked to submit a letter of application and a resume to Capt. Michael Franco, PA Office, Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass. 01022, as soon as possible.

Commander's Hot line (413) 557-2097

August UTA dates

A UTA Aug. 9-10
B UTA Aug. 23-24

Drunk driving demonstration aimed at teens

Article and photos
by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

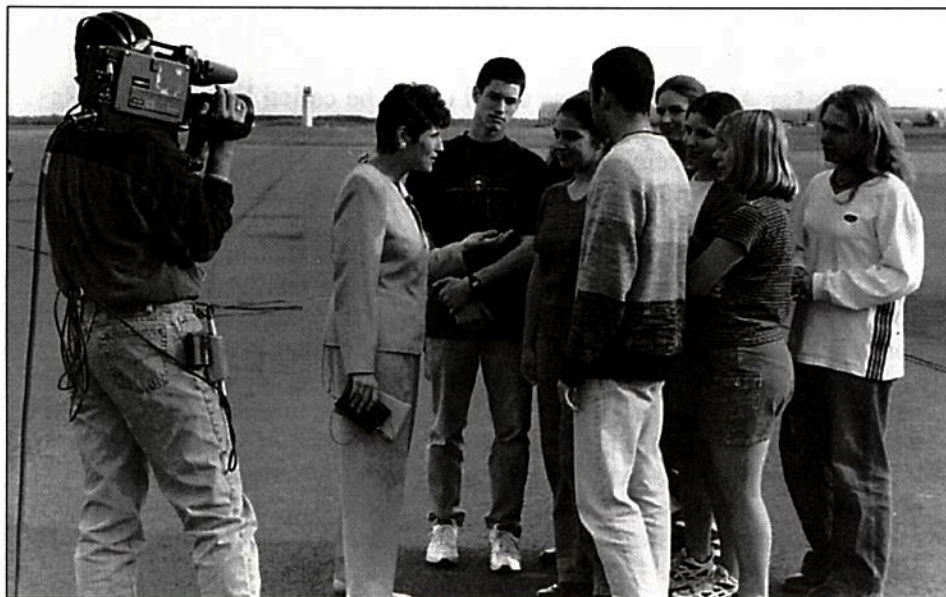
The Massachusetts State Police, in cooperation with Channel 40 (WGGB) of Springfield, conducted a drunk driving demonstration at Westover in May, hoping to focus awareness among high school students before proms and graduation parties.

Camera crews and production people spent the entire day at the base filming live shots and taping the proceedings. Four volunteers were allowed to drink alcoholic beverages during the day and at various stages drove through a course set up by state police on an abandoned taxiway.

"What we were trying to do was to drive home to high school students in our viewing area, the dangers of drinking and driving," said Michelle Labbee, Channel 40 news reporter..

In addition to families of victims of drunk drivers were on hand to relate their experiences on camera, students from several high schools also witnessed first hand, the effects alcohol has on one's ability to drive.

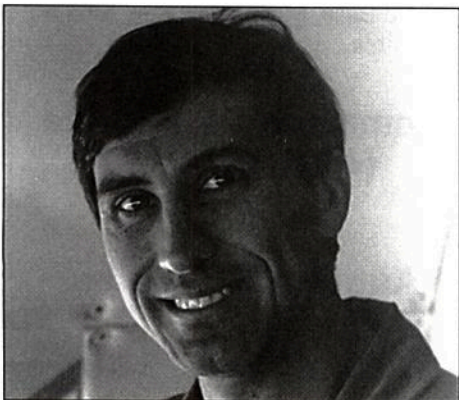
"I hope that the demonstration opens the eyes of some youngsters. Seeing young people get injured or killed because of drunk driving is a tragedy. So if even one teenager gets the message, I'd be satisfied," she said.



STRAIGHT TALK — Channel 40 news reporter Michelle Labbee, above, interviews high school students who watched a drunk driving demonstration held on an abandoned taxiway at Westover. In the photo at right, Mass. State Trooper, Sgt. Mike Domnarski, conducts a field sobriety test on volunteer Kym Zachary as cameraman Chris Tannen tapes the test.



PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like Maj. Mike Davis of Nashua, N.H. and 2,614 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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